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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Emphasis in this week's summary is on producing more food and feed in 1944.

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NEW YORK
December 28, 1943

Victory Gardens.-Final reports on Victory Garden program in 1943 list 139,373 farm and 978,513 community, industrial, and individual gardens -- total of 1,117,886, or more than 10 percent in excess of goal. All gardens were reported fair to excellent. Their total production was 37,124,849 bushels.

State Victory Garden Council, reorganized in December, will continue to function as official committee of New York State War Council through Emergency Food Commission.

Plans for 1944 place stress on size and quality, rather than on increased numbers of back-yard and farm gardens. There may be some increase in numbers of urban gardens. Among improved teaching means is color film for use at garden meetings.

War Food Production Conference.-County agricultural agents were brought to college, week of December 13, for intensive training in Extension Service program to help New York farmers produce all they can in 1944. Revised production recommendations, improved educational methods to be used, and integration with other agencies were covered. This conference is to be followed soon with series of county meetings to present tentative organization plan to county agricultural committees and representatives of all Government agencies operating in counties. Agricultural defense committees are made up of farmer representatives of all Government agencies and of all farm organizations. County agent, who is secretary of committee, is only Government employee member. Through this organization, county agents and extension specialists will follow up details involved in executing plans to make them effective in counties so that agents can reach every rural community and as many individual farmers as possible.

Program will be pushed vigorously throughout year by means of variety of useful educational methods, including radio, press, lectures, demonstrations, bulletins, circulars, motion pictures, clinics, farm visits; individual and group conferences, and direct aid and services of many kinds. Custom spraying and similar arrangements for cooperative action will be stimulated, organized, and assisted.

Shortages of materials and labor will be brought promptly to attention of responsible agencies for action. Marketing service, including direct and indirect aids to moving perishable commodities and bringing together sellers and buyers, will be continued as need develops. College food and feed production committee has compiled list of recommendations for Smith-Hughes teachers, paid personnel of all Government agencies working directly with farmers, and others who might use them effectively. This handbook will cover the "how" of the all-out drive to increase production of food and feed in 1944.

Milk.-New York farmers get about half their income from milk. Prices are now on high level, but feed prices have increased faster. Even with 40-cent subsidy in 1943 return, number of pounds of dairy ration which could be purchased with 100 pounds of milk was 127 in October as compared with 135 a year earlier, or 132 for recent 5-year average.

Eggs.-During first 10 months of 1943, number of eggs produced per layer in New York flocks was same as in 1942. Up to present no reduction in eggs per bird has occurred. Both in United States and in New York peak production per layer was reached in 1942. National average was 142; New York average, 162.

Farm and Home Week.-The 37th annual Farm and Home Week, due in February 1944, has been canceled. In recent years annual attendance has been around 14,000.

PUERTO RICO

December 1, 1943

Food production.-Campaigns are being continued in production and use of soybeans and in control of hog cholera.

Extension agents helped central office personnel in making quick cost-of-production survey on coffee, for OPA, as basis for fair ceiling price.

4-H Clubs.-Club members took part in Arbor Day activities throughout Island.

Extension Service provided other organizations with appropriate material, which was put to wide use. Total of 1,300 persons participated in 9 Achievement Day observances during National Achievement and Reorganization Week.

Information.-Extension information activities through newspapers and radio have been expanded. All newspapers, magazines, and radio stations are regularly using extension releases. Extension now uses Island-wide hook-up of 5 stations instead of just 1, as before. During month, 21 radio broadcasts were made and 7 electrical transcription programs prepared.

WYOMING

January 1, 1944

Food production and conservation.-Reports from 270 homemakers' clubs in 22 counties show Wyoming farm and ranch women have done fine job in production and conservation of foods. They grew 2,927 gardens. They canned 1,167,066 quarts of meats, fruits, and vegetables; froze 227,140 pounds of meats, vegetables, and fruits; brined and dried 33,490 pounds of products. Homemakers made for their families 29,539 new garments and remodeled 13,459. As conservation measure,

they mended and dry-cleaned 281,379 garments. They repaired 5,530 household appliances. Record keeping increased in popularity as 1,663 women kept home accounts, more than twice as many as in 1942.

In addition to work in production and conservation, homemakers found time to help with community activities. They assisted in collection of 26,421 pounds of waste fats, 4,276 pounds of scrap hose, and 1,684,906 pounds of scrap metal. Although most of them lived in rural communities, report shows 344 members of homemakers' clubs assisted at U.S.O. centers, 1,844 members worked in Red Cross, and 840 completed Red Cross courses.

Labor.-Report of labor division of Wyoming Extension Service shows 2,000 women and youth assisted with agricultural work during year. Other labor was used as follows: 225 Japanese evacuees, 812 Italian prisoners of war, 545 Mexican nationals, 336 Oklahomans, 51 soldiers, 2 conscientious objectors; total 1,971. So well were labor requirements met, that little loss in crops was due to labor shortage. Negotiations are under way to bring into State 50 Navaho Indians for sheepherders and general ranch hands.

Feeds and feeding.-Owing to scarcity and high price of protein feeds, Extension has helped stockmen to understand situation and has given them information on substitute rations, on adjusting livestock to available feed, and otherwise making changes in feeding practices. Poultrymen too, have been advised on feeds and feeding for their flocks to meet shortage of usual protein feeds.

4-H Clubs.-Wyoming sent delegation of 16 club members to National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago in December. All were State champions in some phase of club work. They had made outstanding records in regular 4-H projects over period of 5 to 10 years and during past 2 years had assumed important responsibilities in food production and in helping to relieve labor shortage.

